

## REMARKS

In support of the applicant's position that the tie in of a section of new, repaired, or upgraded water main to an existing water main occurs in unsanitary and potentially unsafe working surroundings, the applicant has provided a photograph of typical surroundings encountered by men working on a water main in an excavated hole/pit. As the photograph shows, the hole is deep (as evidenced by the ladder used by workers to enter and exit the hole/pit), standing water is present under the water main, the hole is kept to a minimum cross-sectional dimension so that adequate working room is often compromised when problems occur and a tie in requires more than two people working in the hole/pit, and workers in the hole are always subject to injury from collapse of the pit wall when time constraints and/or budgets do not allow for the installation of a trench box. Further, particularly with new construction, the workers are continually under pressure from site developers and others to finish tie ins in the shortest amount of time possible. The present invention expedites the tie in process, often requiring less than half of the time needed (and half the material expense) when compared to the time/cost needed for prior art tie in methods involving water drainage from the new/repaired/upgraded water main section after the initial testing takes place, which thereafter requires flushing and retesting for pressure and bacterial contamination, and waste of large amounts of good drinking water that could be put to other good use if the present invention method and tri valve were used instead. Further, the present invention tri valve eliminates hazardous working conditions in the hole/pit due to standing drainage water which enhances the likelihood of workers slipping or tripping in the close working conditions in the hole/pit, and which also enhances the likelihood of pit wall collapse.

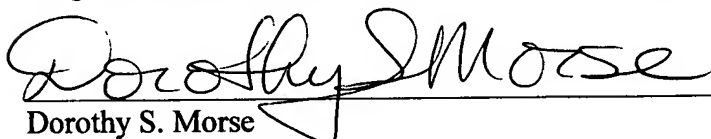
## DRAWINGS

The drawings are rejected as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference signs mentioned in the description and important features of the invention do need to be pointed out in the disclosure by reference numerals. Figs. 1A and 2B were originally submitted. The applicant has provided two corrected drawings herein as a part of this Office Action response that are marked as 'Replacement Sheets'. Also, for each corrected drawing, the applicant has included an 'Annotated Sheet' having hand-marked notations showing the changes made. In addition, four new illustrations, each marked as a 'New Drawing Sheet'. Fig. 3 shows the tri valve connected to water main pipe, while Figs 4-5 show a prior art connection of a temporary backflow preventer, and Fig. 6 shows how a temporary backflow preventer is connected to the present invention tri valve during water main construction. The applicant believes that the 'New' illustrations contain only information provided in the original written disclosure, and that the changes made herein correct the basis used for Examiner objection. Therefore the applicant respectfully requests that the 'Replacement Sheets' and 'New Sheets' provided herein be accepted by the Examiner and the objection on page 2 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

## CONCLUSION

Since the applicant herein believes that he has now provided information to the Examiner about his invention in the format required by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and that no new matter has been added while making the needed changes, and he has identified important benefits provided by his invention, he respectfully requests that his new and amended claims now be reviewed for patentability and allowed.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Guy Walter by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy S. Morse". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

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